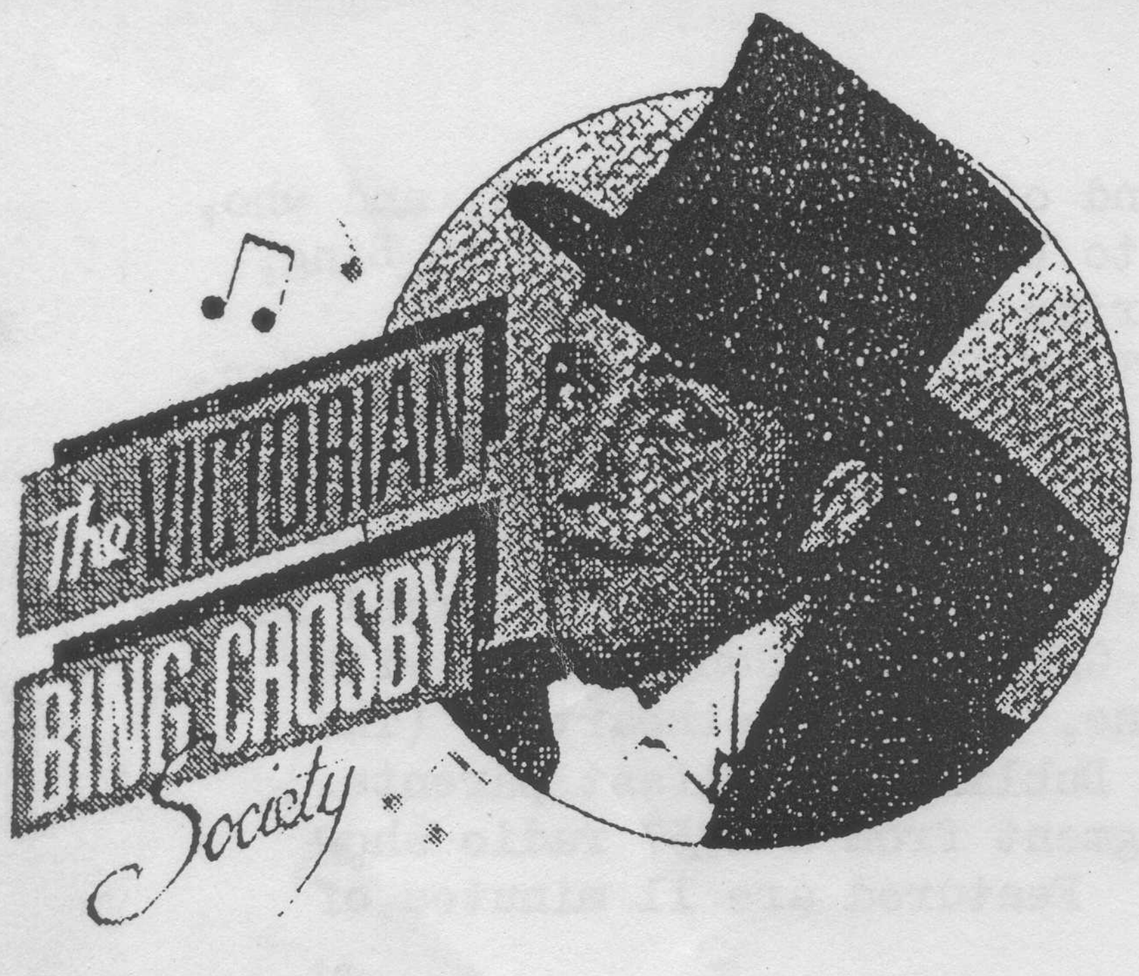

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NEWSLETTER - APRIL/MAY '94

Monday May 9th.brings our next Film Night, with the following programme:-

"THE EMPEROR WALTZ" (Produced 1946/Released 1948)
Bing/Jane Fontaine/Roland Culver/Richard Haydn.
Directed by Billy Wilder, and set in Austria-Hungary in 1901, this is the story of an American phonograph salesman's attempts to sell the "new invention" to the Emperor. He is rebuffed by both the Emperor, and the visiting Countess Johanna (Jane Fontaine) - but his mongrel dog "Buttons" and her pedigreed poodle "Scheherazade" take a prominent hand in proceedings.
Songs include "The Friendly Mountains," "I Kiss Your Hand Madame," "The Emperor Waltz," "Santa Lucia," "The Kiss in Your Eyes," and "The Whistler and His Dog." Magnificent mountain scenery is a feature.

"SHOW BUSINESS" (1944)
Eddie Cantor celebrated 35 years in "Show Business" by producing and starring in this feature with the story in part inspired by incidents in his own life. Chronicling the adventures of a small group of stage folk from 1914 to 1929, it includes scenes from Minstrel Shows, Grand Opera and the Ziegfeld Follies... with Cantor joined by Joan Davis, George Murphy, Constance Moore and Nancy Kelly. The score features originals and standards including "It Had to be You," "You May Not Remember Me," and "Whoopee." Breezy, lavish and nostalgic.

It's a long programme, so screening will begin at 7.30 p.m.sharp, and it would be appreciated if everyone was seated by then. (It would also be much appreciated if you could have the correct entry fee - providing "change" is a constant problem).
Our new venue, remember, is the GRIERSON THEATRE, with its own carpark off Treasury Place. The carpark leads to the back entrance - and this is the entrance to be used by club members etc.

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"BINGTHINGS SOCIETY"
The Committee will take out membership of this U.S.society on behalf of members and will pass on relevant information via the newsletter. The "Bingthings Society" produces a magazine four times a year, and also has a very extensive choice of Crosby movies, TV shows, videos, short features and documentaries available for purchase. (On VHS, but yet to be established whether these are on PAL, or the American NTSC system.) For any member wishing to establish direct contact, BOB LUNDBERG is the man to approach, at - 4084 Cherry Tree Place, Lake Havasu, Arizona, 86406-4446,U.S.A.

GOLDEN OLDEN RECORDINGS

Dubliner George O'Reilly, who was a personal friend of Bing's from 1953, and who, in 1966, produced the first television "special" to be made in Ireland by Bing, now has available a CD disc (also cassette) featuring songs from this show titled, as was the programme, "BING - A LITTLE BIT OF IRISH." Running time for the 28 tracks is 70 minutes, and among selections are "Come Back to Erin," "Galway Bay," "Molly Malone" (Cockles & Mussels), "The Isle of Innisfree," "MacNamara's Band," "When Irish Eyes are Smiling," and "That Tumbledown Shack in Athlone." Also included are several Victor Herbert numbers Bing recorded in 1938 - "I'm Falling in Love with Someone" and "The Gypsy Love Song," both with Frances Langford - "When You're Away," "Thine Alone," and "Sweethearts." (The Irish connection here? Victor Herbert was born in Dublin, of Belfast parents.) And a further attraction is the inclusion of a segment from a 1937 radio show when Bing's guest was Irish tenor John McCormack. Featured are 11 minutes of Crosby/McCormack conversation and song.
The CD is retailing in the U.K.at from STG£12.99 to STG£14.99 - but a direct approach could be made to George O'Reilly, "Golden Olden Recordings," Crosby House, 1A St.Margaret's Avenue, Malahide, Co.Dublin, Ireland.
For members of the Crosby Collectors Club, Derek Parkes (66 Firs Rd., Firsdown, Salisbury, Wilts, U.K. SP5 1SW) has the CD on special offer at STG£10.00, plus packing and postage for approx. STG£2.50. Incidentally, Derek reports that membership of the C.C.Club has doubled in the past year, and that the number of Bing enthusiasts in the U.K. seems to be increasing, rather than decreasing. He is currently working with John McNicholas to put the chronological series on CD, excluding the alternative takes.

IN THE U.S.

Bryan Johnson is planning to produce "The Magic of Bing Crosby - Pt.2" on video cassette - while last November the Disney Channel presented, networked throughout the U.S., the Premiere Special "BING! HIS LEGENDARY YEARS 1931-57," hosted by Dennis Miller. This has been followed by an MCA Music Video of the same name - no news yet of Australian release, but it could be worth asking about it.

And the U.S.Postal Service announces that Bing will be featured on a 29 cent stamp to be issued as part of a series in September this year.

PERSONAL NOTES

Sad news was the report of the death, on December 7th., of Ken Twiss, founder and President of the Bing Crosby Historical Society, at the age of 81 in Tacoma, Washington.

Bob Neate announces the arrival of his first grandchild. Grand-dad reports "fortunately, little Hayley bears no resemblance to me."
Incidentally Bob is chasing Parts 9 and 13 in the John Joyce series. He'd appreciate a loan from anyone who may have taped the series.

MISC.

Anyone who feels that the new radio station Magic 693, which purports to feature music from the "40's,50's and 60's," could include some of the classic Crosby hits in its programming, rather than the fairly poor selection heard to date, should contact Magic 693 General Manager, Mr.Noel Crowe, P.O.Box 6930, Frankston, Vic.3199. He has invited listener comment. You could perhaps suggest a few of your personal favourites, especially from the late thirties, early forties. The problem with present-day programmers seems to be ignorance of the Crosby repertoire.

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